

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This amendment is in response to an Office Action dated May 27, 2004. The Examiner is thanked for his thorough examination of the subject application.

In the Office Action, claims 2-7 and 11-15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but after careful analysis, these claims were considered by the Examiner to contain patentable subject matter. Applicant has placed dependent claims 2, 3 and 11 into independent form, each including the limitations of its base claims (claim 1 or claim 10). Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection and allow pending claims 2-7 and 11-15.

In addition to the above-noted objection, claims 8 & 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and claims 1, 10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection, but in order to facilitate prosecution of the subject application, claims 1 and 8-10 have been cancelled without prejudice. With respect to claim 16, however, Applicant has added the limitations set forth in objected claim 2 in order to place claim 16 in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the § 102(e) rejected directed toward claim 16 and allow claim 16 as now amended.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance at the Examiner's earliest opportunity.

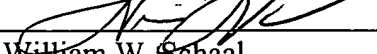
***Conclusion***

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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